

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Agency: Climate Program Office (CPO), Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Research (OAR),

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),  
Department of Commerce

Action: Initial Notice

SUMMARY: The NOAA Climate Program represents a contribution to national and international programs designed to improve our ability to observe, understand, predict, and respond to changes in the global environment. The Program builds on NOAA's mission requirements and long-standing capabilities in climate and global change research and prediction. The Program is a key, contributing element of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) that is coordinated by the interagency Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (CENR). NOAA's Climate Program is designed to complement other agencies' contributions to that national effort.

**DATES:**

**Submission Dates and Times:**

Letter of Intent Due Date for all Program Elements other than Assessing Meridional Overturning Circulation

Variability: Implications for Rapid Climate Change: July 23, 2007 by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Application Due Date for all Program Elements other than Assessing Meridional Overturning Circulation Variability:

Implications for Rapid Climate Change: September 24, 2007 by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Letters of Intent to the Assessing Meridional Overturning Circulation Variability: Implications for Rapid Climate

Change Program Element should be received by 5 p.m.

Eastern Time October 5, 2007.

Full proposals to the Assessing Meridional Overturning Circulation Variability: Implications for Rapid Climate

Change Program Element must be received no later than 5 p.m. Eastern Time December 7, 2007.

Anticipated Award Date: May 1, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:**

**Submission:**

Letters of Intent are strongly encouraged to be submitted by e-mail to the identified NOAA program element's

program manager, with an optional copy to [cpogrants@noaa.gov](mailto:cpogrants@noaa.gov). If Internet access is not available, please submit Letters of Intent to LOI to the Program Managers listed with each program in the Program Priorities section of the Full Funding Opportunity.

Except as described below, proposal applications shall be submitted through Grants.gov APPLY, [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). A date time receipt indication is included and will be the basis of determining timeliness. Proposals received after that time will not be considered for funding. To apply for this NOAA federal funding opportunity, please go to <http://www.grants.gov> and use the following funding opportunity OAR-CPO-2008-2000994.

If the applicant does not have access to the Internet, please contact the CPO Grants Manager (see the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section below) for instructions on a paper format submission; in such case, it must be mailed to the CPO Grants Manager Diane Brown, NOAA Climate Program Office (R/CP1), SSM3, Room 12112, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, and received by the deadline. Facsimile transmissions of full proposals will not be accepted. Paper format

applications will be date and time stamped when they are received.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Please visit the CPO Web site for further information

<http://www.climate.noaa.gov>. For Technical questions:

All technical questions should be addressed to the

identified NOAA program element's program manager. For

Administrative questions: Please contact the CPO Grants

Manager, Diane Brown, NOAA Climate Program Office

(R/CP1), SSM3, Room 12112, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver

Spring, MD 20910, by phone at 301-734-1206, or e-mail:

[cpogrants@noaa.gov](mailto:cpogrants@noaa.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access:

Applicants should read the full text of the full funding opportunity announcement which can be accessed at the CPO

Website: <http://www.climate.noaa.gov> or the central NOAA

site: [www.ofa.noaa.gov/~amd/SOLINDEX.HTML](http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/~amd/SOLINDEX.HTML). This

announcement will also be available through Grants.gov at

<http://www.grants.gov/>.

#### Funding Availability:

NOAA believes that the Climate Program will benefit significantly from a strong partnership with outside investigators. Please be advised that actual funding levels will depend upon the final FY 2008 budget appropriations. In FY 2006, approximately \$6M in first year funding was available for 63 new awards; similar funds and number of awards are anticipated in FY 2008. Total Anticipated Federal Funding for FY 2008 is \$6M in first year funding for 50 - 70 awards. Federal Funding for FY 2009 may be used in part to fund some awards submitted under this competition. Current plans assume that 100% of the total resources provided through this announcement will support extramural efforts, particularly those involving the broad academic community. Past or current grantees funded under this announcement are eligible to apply for a new award that builds on previous activities or areas of research not covered in the previous award. Current grantees should not request supplementary funding for ongoing research through this announcement. We anticipate that the annual cost of most funded projects will fall between \$50,000 and \$200,000 per year. The exact amount of funds that

may be awarded will be determined in pre-award negotiations between the applicant and NOAA representatives. Neither NOAA nor the Department of Commerce is responsible for proposal preparation costs if this program is not funded for whatever reason. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds. Awards are to be up to three years in length except where noted by otherwise by the Program.

Statutory Authority:

49 U.S.C. 44720, 33 U.S.C. 883d, 15 U.S.C. 2904, 15 U.S.C. 2931-2934

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:

CFDA No. 11.431, Climate and Atmospheric Research.

Eligibility:

Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, other nonprofits, commercial organizations, international organizations, and state, local, and Indian tribal governments. Federal agencies or institutions are not eligible to receive Federal assistance under this notice.

**Cost Sharing Requirements:**

The Program does not require cost sharing.

**Letters of Intent (LOI):**

The purpose of the LOI is to provide information to potential applicants on the relevance of their proposed project to the Climate Program and the likelihood of it being funded in advance of preparing a full proposal.

While it is in the best interest of the applicants to submit an LOI, it is not a requirement. Applicants who do not submit an LOI are still allowed to submit a full proposal. The proposal may, however, be returned, if deemed not relevant to the Program. Full proposals will be encouraged only for LOIs deemed relevant.

A panel of program managers will review each LOI to determine whether the LOI is responsive to the program goals as advertised in this notice and will provide an e-mail or letter response.

**Evaluation of Selection Procedures:**

For a copy of the evaluation criteria and selection procedures for this FRN, please see the Full Funding

Opportunity (FFO) announcement. The FFO can be accessed at the CPO Web site: <http://www.climate.noaa.gov>.

**Limitation of Liability:**

Funding for the programs listed in this notice are contingent upon the availability of FY 2006 appropriations. In no event will NOAA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if these programs fail to receive funding or are cancelled because of other agency priorities.

Publication of this announcement does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):**

NOAA must analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for applicant projects or proposals which are seeking NOAA federal funding opportunities. Detailed information on NOAA compliance with NEPA can be found at the following NOAA NEPA website: <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/>, including our NOAA Administrative Order 216-6 for NEPA, <http://www.nepa.noaa.gov/NAO216--6--TOC.pdf>, and the Council on Environmental Quality implementation



regulations,

[http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/ceq/toc\\_ceq.htm](http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/ceq/toc_ceq.htm)

Consequently, as part of an applicant's package, and under their description of their program activities, applicants are required to provide detailed information on the activities to be conducted, locations, sites, species and habitat to be affected, possible construction activities, and any environmental concerns that may exist (e.g., the use and disposal of hazardous or toxic chemicals, introduction of non-indigenous species, impacts to endangered and threatened species, aquaculture projects, and impacts to coral reef systems). In addition to providing specific information that will serve as the basis for any required impact analyses, applicants may also be requested to assist NOAA in drafting of an environmental assessment, if NOAA determines an assessment is required. Applicants will also be required to cooperate with NOAA in identifying and implementing feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposal. The failure to do so shall be grounds for the denial of an application.

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification  
Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements: The  
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The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification  
Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements  
contained in the Federal Register notice of December 30,  
2004 (69 FR 78389) are applicable to this solicitation.

Paperwork Reduction Act: This document contains  
collection-of-information requirements subject to the  
Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). The use of Standard Forms  
424 and 424A, 424B, SF-LLL, and CD-346 have been approved  
by OMB under the respective control numbers 0348-0043,  
0348-0044, 0348-0040, 0348-0046, and 0605-0001.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is  
required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject  
to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of  
information subject to the requirements of the PRA unless  
that collection of information displays a currently valid  
OMB control number.

Executive Order 12866:

This notice has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

**Executive Order 13132 (Federalism):**

It has been determined that this notice does not contain policies with Federalism implications as that term is defined in Executive Order 13132.

**Intergovernmental Review:**

Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of federal programs.

**Administrative Procedure Act/ Regulatory Flexibility Act:**

Prior notice and an opportunity for public comments are not required by the Administrative Procedure Act or any other law for this rule concerning grants, benefits, and contracts (5 U.S.C. section 553(a)). Because notice and opportunity for comment are not required pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553 or any other law, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. section 601 et seq) are inapplicable. Therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis has not been prepared.

Dated:

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Mark E. Brown

Chief, Financial Officer

Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration